

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 20, 2002 LR 6

SENATOR BOURNE: Well I...I can name, oh, at least three or four restaurants that have closed in the immediate area around Ak-Sar-Ben since Ak-Sar-Ben closed, or stopped horse racing there. So part...well there was the largest restaurant in the entire state, as I recall it, Ross's, closed after the track stopped racing there. So yeah, it does. To stop that, or when it did stop it had a significant economic impact in the community, I agree with you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Ladies and gentlemen, you understand what we're looking at here. At...though we have expanded gambling at those facilities now and probably it...it...racing is an addiction, to a certain extent, but you look at the benefits that come...can...that can come from those racetracks. You heard Senator Aguilar talk about the Fonner Park being a good neighbor. Senator Wehrbein understands the situation we have at the State Fair right now, our buildings are falling down, less people are attending the fair. More people attended the fair when we had live racing. But that, in itself anymore, is not enough to attract them. Senator Robak mentioned the fact that Columbus, at the racetrack there, they are a good neighbor, they help the community. These are the kinds of things we want. All right, and we are also addressing the fact that the Indians on the reservations, the Native Americans, will be able to help themselves, help their people and their community...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...that surround them. Senator Bourne mentioned the fact that years ago what Ak-Sar-Ben...I remember, as it being a youngster, what they did for the 4-H people, the Future Farmers of America. They would take the wealth that they had and divide that amongst the whole state. They would buy ambulances, they would help rural fire protection district with grants. That came from horse racing, and that is not here anymore. This will revitalize...revive a...a...game...or a...what did they used to call horse racing, the sport of kings. This is not going to benefit my district that extreme, to that extreme. The only thing it's going to help with putting these at the racetrack, is going to help those involved...